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May 2001

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PRIME MINISTER PATTERSON

OPENS NEW CONSULATE BUILDING IN TORONTO

Submitted By Carolyn Goulbourne-Warren
JIS Information Officer

On Thursday, April 19, Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Right Hon. P.J. Patterson was in Toronto for a special task. He officially opened the new home of several Jamaican government agencies here in Toronto.

Located at 303 Eglinton Avenue East near Mt. Pleasant, the building houses the Jamaican Consulate General, Jamaica Information Service, Jamaica Tourist Board and Jampro/Jamaica Trade Commission.

Consul General A.B. Stewart Stephenson and staff of the agencies welcomed the Prime Minister and other invited guests, including Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. the Hon. Paul Robertson; High Commissioner Raymond Wolfe and Mrs. Wolfe; Mrs. Dawn Stephenson; M.P.P. Alvin Curling; President of the Jamaican Canadian Association, Mr. Herman Stewart; heads of other community organizations; members of the Consular Corps and representatives from the government and police.

Prime Minister Patterson said one of the reasons the Jamaican government acquired the building was because of the enormous cost-saving factor of



having all the agencies under one roof. An even greater reason, he noted, was that it "will provide more efficient and enhanced quality of service to the Jamaican community and Canadians with interest in doing business in Jamaica."

The Prime Minister said in one building, the public can now obtain ready information and services from Consular affairs, welfare, information, tourism, as well as trade and investment promotion materials. The Prime Minister also urged Jamaicans living in the Greater Toronto Area to take pride in the new building.

Paying tributes to Jamaican Canadians, Mr. Patterson thanked them for contributing to the development of Jamaica and Canada. "Our citizens have made a significant impact on the various Canadian cities and communities in which they have

chosen to settle," he said. "In the process, they have demonstrated high levels of citizenship, industry and achievement. Yet many have never abandoned their commitment to Jamaica and are always trying to find ways to help."

While in Toronto, Prime Minister Patterson held a "Live and Direct" Public Forum at the Jamaican Canadian Centre. (Details will be in the next issue of *In Focus*)

QUARTERLY MEETING

Friday,
MAY 25, 2001 - 6:00 P.M.

Saturday,
MAY 26, 2001 - 9:00 A.M.

Jamaican Canadian Centre
995 Arrow Road

For further information call
JCA at (416) 746-5772

EDITORIAL

It is our first anniversary of the Annual General Meeting taking on a two-day format. From all reports received members, visitors and the public were impressed and pleased.

The Open House held on Friday, May 25, 2000 was very well attended and the program coordinators must be complimented for a job well done. Everyone present learnt something new about the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) and the services we provide.

Saturday, May 27, 2000 saw the first "Town Hall Style" AGM Forum on Immigration and issues surrounding immigrants. To say this session was well attended would be an understatement. There were a number of senior immigration staff members who shared on various aspects of the immigration act/process. Audience participation was at an all time high. Questions ran the gamut and were all very intelligent, relevant and pertinent. People with personal issues may not have received the answers they were looking for but one should keep in mind this was an open forum and as such, answers had to be generic in most cases.

It is time for the 2001 AGM and once again the Friday evening session on

Friday May 25th, will be an Open House and Reception, showcasing the JCA's activities and how the community can become more involved. Attendees will be able to view JCA's exciting web site, videos and get detailed explanations on the various programs offered through the JCA.

Additionally, Friday's events will feature as guest speaker, the dynamic and motivational Rev. Michael Blair from the Walmer Road Baptist Church. Those who have heard Rev. Blair will know of his captivating style and those who have not yet met him, consider this a "not to be missed" event. You will be in for a treat that can only be described as "awe-inspiring."

An exceptionally exciting youth program sponsored by the JCA's Youth Affairs Committee will cap Friday's events. You will be transported around the world via fashion, food, music, dance and poetry. Make a date to attend this event.

Saturday May 26th, the events will include the regular business portion of the AGM. There will be Election of new officers for the year 2001/2002 for the Board of Directors. Board Members will present their committee reports for the 2000/2001 year.

Your usual attendance and participation at these events will ensure the usual success of the JCA's Annual General Meetings. We look forward to your presence and participation.

THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION 38 YEARS OF SERVICE and COMMITMENT

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WOMEN IN POWER

And Decision Making Role

PART 11

between 1973 and 1993. Mrs. Marshall-Burnett found this position vital to opening up new programs in nursing to meet Jamaica's health needs.

She led negotiating teams that effectively sought better conditions of service for nurses. Through her skills at the bargaining table, Mrs. Marshall-Burnett became a beloved household name in Jamaica, and yet a force for which successive governments have had to reckon.

This is the first of a number of articles on Women in Power and Decision-Making Roles that will be submitted by the JCA Women's Committee in this section of In-Focus.

Senator Syringa A. Marshall-Burnett, CD, RN, RM, PHN, BScN, MAN

Source: Reflections - Imagining the worlds we wish for by Hermi H. Hewitt

Her interactions with a wide cross section of world travelers and avid reading motivated her. Fascinated by her mentor and teacher, the late Governor General of Barbados Dame Nita Barrow, who did postgraduate studies at the University of Toronto nursing school, Mrs. Marshall-Burnett decided to embark on studies in Canada also.

Between 1962 and 1967, she attained two certificates - one in nursing service and one in public health nursing - and a baccalaureate nursing degree from the University of Toronto. She completed a double major at the master's level in education and psychiatric mental health at New York University. While away from Jamaica, Mrs. Marshall-Burnett kept abreast of developments on the island and, from abroad, prepared herself for how she would contribute to nursing when she went home. She took a post at the University of the West Indies, Mona, in 1972.

Amidst social changes, she rekindled work with her nation's professional nursing group, becoming an executive member in 1973. Thereafter, she served as president of the Nurses Association of Jamaica five times

Miss Swaby introduced Mrs. Marshall-Burnett to the significant arena of nursing publications. Eventually, Mrs. Marshall-Burnett succeeded Miss Swaby as editor of the Nurses Association of Jamaica's journal.

Since that time, Mrs. Marshall-Burnett has participated in all ICN congresses. Consequently, she was elected to the ICN Board of Directors for two quadrennia, representing the board of ICN at the World Health Organization/United Nations International Children Education Fund Primary Health Care Alma Ata Conference in 1978. She served also as a resource person for the ICN's and World Health Organization's primary health care workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1979.

In her academic responsibilities at the University of the West Indies, Mrs. Marshall-Burnett introduces international nursing issues. She brings relevant information to her teaching that inspires her students with the notion that they can be change agents.

In 1988, she began the annual nursing research conference in Jamaica to transform nursing research theory into evidenced-based nursing practice. Through her efforts, Caribbean nurses keep abreast of current research and are introduced to international scholars.

The annual conference has become an established calendar date in nursing. Other Caribbean nations have followed suit. A global scientific outlook continues in the region. As a result, an international education

Continued on Page 4

conference was held in Jamaica, running parallel to the ICN's and Council of National Representatives' Conference in 1991. Sigma Theta Tau International and the University of the West Indies, Mona, also were co-hosts of a research congress in 1996. Nurse experts from many countries discovered previously unknown Caribbean books and papers that became valued nursing works for the hundreds of scholars who gathered.

In 1993, with the recommendation and support of peers from developing and developed countries. Mrs. Marshall-Burnett ran for president of ICN. Although the primary goal of this effort was not achieved, it led the many nurses who identified with her to aspire to leadership positions themselves within the global environment.

Like the crystal blue waves tumbling over the island's bleached sands, Mrs. Marshall-Burnett's vision pours onto nursing's sanguine shores. As once her student, this writer knows her dynamism and capacity to recall minute details, cross-reference information from different disciplines and incorporate the pertinent aspects in nursing issues.

"She who educates for the profession controls the profession," Mrs. Marshall-Burnett says. "Therefore nursing's teachers have to be well-prepared." In Parliament and at the university, her nursing philosophy girds the rounding vessels of confidence plunging into Jamaican-fresh currents.

(Editor's Note: This is part two of this special article on one of our "Women In Power")

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Membership Report

submitted by
Pauline Reid, Membership Chair

Spring has sprung; summer is swinging just around the corner. The Membership Committee is also into the swing with the weather with the following upcoming activities:

June 8 at 6:30 p.m. will be volunteer appreciation evening. All JCA members are invited to come and meet the Board, old friends and meet new friends.

The Annual JCA Picnic/Outing will be on Sunday, July 8th. This exciting event will cost \$25.00 for adults/seniors; children under 12 will be \$10.00. Tickets will be on sale from May 14, 2001 to June 22, 2001. Please call the JCA at 416-746-5772 ext 0.

Don't forget the JCA's Flagraising Ceremony at the Toronto City Hall on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.

We celebrated the Children's Easter Bun/Cheese Part on Saturday, April

Ceremony at the Toronto City Hall on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.

We celebrated the Children's Easter Bun/Cheese Part on Saturday, April 14. I would like to thank the following companies and individuals for their support and donations to the party:

Nicey's Food Mart
Sunlight Bakery on Eglinton
McDonald's at Finch and Weston
A&B Bakeries
Pride News Magazine
Share Newspaper
Beryl Nugent

Special thanks to nine year olds, Denise Francis and Ashley Dillon for so adequately playing the role of "Bunnies" for the event.

Your continued support for the community events put on by the JCA is greatly appreciated. Once again, thanks to all. A very pleasant summer to all.

N O T I C E

The Nominating/Selection Committee is seeking candidates for the following positions on the Jamaican Canadian Association's Board:

- 1. Vice President
- 2. Treasurer
- 3. Membership Chair
- 4. Building Chair
- 5. Public Relations Officer

Elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting in May 2001.

For further information please contact
Vincent Conville, Nominating Committee Chair
Phone Number 416-746-5772

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For further information contact
Josh Thompson @ 416-766-9692

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JCA'S 2nd ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Support the JCA: Sponsorships available for the JCA Charity Golf Classic - Submitted by Sharon McMillan

Birdie, Bogey, Putt, One Under Par, Three Over Par..... Still haven't quite figured it out? Want to know what all these "new" words REALLY mean? Well....,

On Saturday, August 18, 2001 at the Cardinal Golf Club in Kettleby, Ontario, the Jamaican Canadian Association will host its annual golf tournament fundraiser the JCA Charity Golf Classic. Patrons of the event will be Mr. Denham Jolly, President, Tyndall Nursing Homes and Flow 93.5 FM Radio; Mr. Stewart Stephenson, Consul General for Jamaica and Senator Anne Cools.

After the tournament there will be a "19th Hole Reception" at the JCA Centre where awards, prizes and entertainment will cap off a great day of golf.

Last year, the event's inaugural year, we had a near capacity turnout with over 100 golfers teeing off. There is tremendous need in our community to have venues where we can play golf with friends, make new connections to enhance our business and learn a sport that previously provided limited public access. Today, there are more opportunities to play with an increase in affordable/public courses and more open tournaments like the JCA's. While it may cost more than some other recreational activities, golf is a challenging sport that can provide you with enormous personal satisfaction and can be easily learned by both the young and old.

In fact, the tournament's committee members have organized a series of **FREE** golf clinics where old pros and young novices alike can come out to the JCA Centre to improve their swing or learn how to "putt". **Equipment is provided.**

Please call the JCA at 416-746-5772 to find out when the next clinic will be held.

The JCA joins many other charitable and community organizations that have successfully raised funds through business sponsorships attached to a fundraising golf tournament.

Sponsorships are still available for the JCA Charity Golf Classic:

- * Hole Sponsors: \$350
- * Tee Sponsors: \$150
- * Cart Sponsor(1) \$1500
- * Dinner Sponsor(1) \$1500

Each sponsorship comes with a selection of benefits which may include: hole signage featuring your company name, mention in all promotional materials prepared for the tournament; and complimentary passes to the tournament for one or

more of your group.

The committee welcomes prizes and cash donations from community members and businesses. Your kindness will be publicly acknowledged through *In Focus* and the media.

As to golf's "elitist" history, a certain young African/Asian-American player named, Tiger Woods has blown the old establishment apart by becoming the first player in golf's history to win four consecutive major titles (most recently *The Masters* in Augusta, Georgia). Not new to success, Tiger has maintained his lead as the world's top golfer for the last several years.

Come out and see what all the excitement is about. Call Alvin Ffrench at (905) 477-7176 or Winston Earl at (416) 754-3923 to find out more.

YOUTH VIBES

Nineteen year old Thomas Plummer, one of JCA's hardest working youth volunteers is a local success story. A graduate of Father Henry Carr Separate School and son of Doug and Novlet, who are also JCA volunteers, Thomas is heading South this September to the University of Akron where he will be suited up as an Akron Zip on a hard-earned football scholarship. Though sought after by both Notre Dame and UCLA, Thomas chose Akron, as he wants to be able to contribute immediately.

With deep emotion, his dad, Doug shared with *In Focus* how hard his son had worked to achieve this scholarship. His mother, with the most radiant smile, could be seen to his immediate left as he signed his future into reality.

Thomas, with a smile a whole mile long, wore a ball cap that said AKRON, signed on the dotted line and said to those present at the signing, "I don't know what exactly a "Zip" is, but whatever it is, I'll wear it proudly" when asked what a "Zip" was.

Thomas, bursting with confidence, hope and pride spoke with *In Focus* recently and this young man is going places. It is hoped that many more of our young people will follow Thomas' work ethics and attitude and one by one become success stories.

The Canadian/Jamaican was born in Clarendon, Jamaica, and came to Canada at age eight. Though on a football scholarship, he will be majoring in International Business studies. Thomas said, "Education is

the key and I would like to travel when my football career is over, and studying business will put me in the right places. One must recognize that football will eventually come to an end, so I must prepare for my future academically."

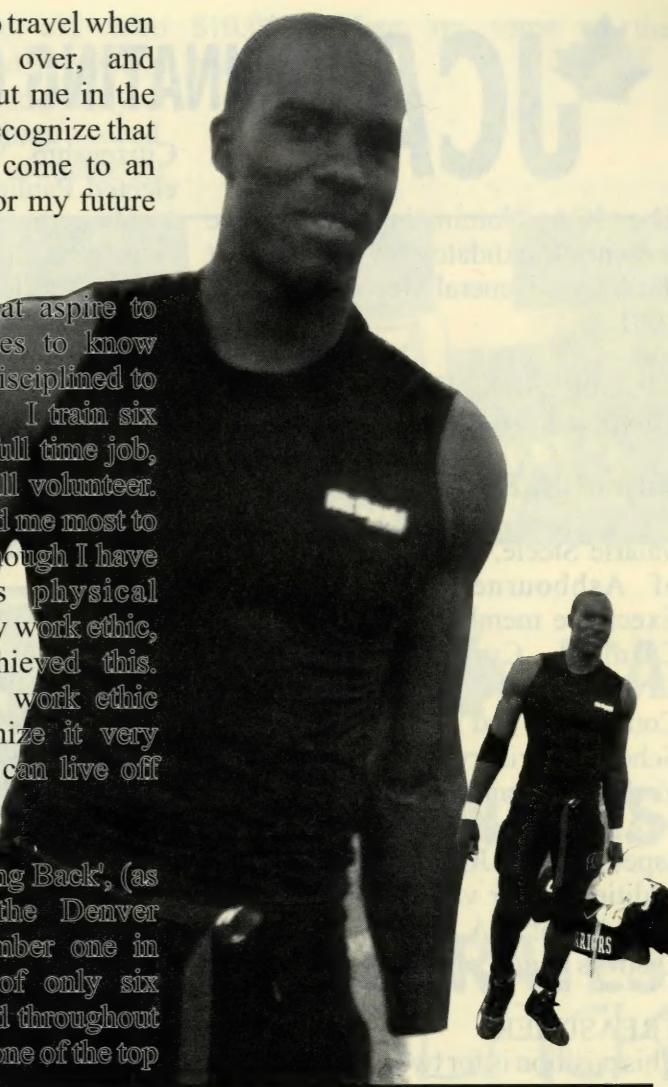
Thomas wants youth that aspire to become superstar athletes to know that "one must be very disciplined to do the training required. I train six days per week, work a full time job, five days a week and still volunteer. My work ethic has helped me most to achieve this success. Though I have great tools (i.e. his physical fitness/body), without my work ethic, I would not have achieved this. Coaches love dedicated work ethic and are able to recognize it very quickly. Not everyone can live off just ability."

Thomas who is a 'Running Back', (as in Terrell Davis of the Denver Broncos) is ranked number one in Canada and was one of only six players who was selected throughout the entire country and is one of the top thirty in the United States at this position.

Thomas explained that one is not usually mentally or physically ready in the first year, but he will be moving to Akron early where he has secured a job and will start early preparations by continuing his training routine. "I hope to see a lot of action in my first year."

For more information on Thomas, visit www.gozip.com also www.rivals.com.

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JCA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The JCA Nominating Committee presents Candidates for positions at the Annual General Meeting, May 27, 2001.

VICE PRESIDENT
This position is for two (2) years

Valarie H.A. Steele

Valarie Steele, Consultant, President of Ashbourne and Associates. Executive member York Children's Carnival, Current Chairperson, Division 13-Community Liaison Committee and a member of the School Advisory Council (City of York). Current Vice President of the JCA. She has been very active in all aspects of the JCA organization. In addition to her various roles as Vice President of JCA, she chairs the JCA's Distress Fund Committee.

TREASURER
This position is for two (2) years

Maxine Adams

Maxine is the current Treasurer of the JCA. Maxine has a BA in Political Science, and Certificate in Accounting. She works on one of the Bingo Teams and works as part of the team that oversees the general running of Bingo. Maxine is a very competent and dependable treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
This position is for two (2) years

Pauline Reid

Pauline has been a member of JCA for the past ten years. She has been a member of various JCA Committees, including secretary of the membership committee. Pauline is the Current Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Pauline is a recipient of the JCA President's Award, as well as the Ministry of

Citizenship Volunteer Award. If elected, Pauline is committed to:

- 1 Maintain an accurate updated membership list
- 2 Work tirelessly to increase our membership in each of the next two years.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
This position is for two (2) years

Claudette Cameron-Stewart

Claudette is the current PR Chairperson. In addition to her PR duties, over the last 2 years, Claudette has chaired the Community Memorial for Pierre Elliot Trudeau, spoken to various groups on behalf of the United Way among other activities. Along with a very dedicated and hardworking team of volunteers, she has produced the JCA's Official Newsletter, *In Focus*. If re-elected, along with her team, she intends to increase circulation of *In Focus* as well as continue to help promote the positive influence of JCA as an organization.

BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
This position is for two (2) years

Leon Sutherland

Leon has been an active member of JCA for over ten (10) years. He has served on several committees and he is currently the Acting Chairperson of the Building Committee.

An electrician by trade, Leon has much experience in many areas of the building industry. Leon has owned his own business since 1978 and this has made him quite successful in communicating with people and getting things done effectively and efficiently and quite

If elected, Leon will endeavour to do his utmost best on behalf of JCA and its members.

TID BITS

By Alton Telfer

It seemed like just a short while ago we were celebrating the arrival of the new year and now we are a third of the way through, getting ready for another new year, 2002. My, my how time flies. Spring has sprung in mild form and as we look back at this past winter it could be described as meek by comparison with others - though people still complained that it prolonged for much too long. Alas, some people like Bruce McDonald have the solution on "how to beat the winter blahs" Bruce takes off every January to Jamaica and returns late March. Now there is a smart man we are learning from you Bruce!

Now that the weather is better it is time to prepare for some outdoor activities. Also, it is time for golfers and potential golfers to start preparing for the JCA's annual golf tournament. This year's tournament is expected to be bigger and better. Registration has started and there is a clinic for beginners being conducted by Alvin Ffrench. For those who are interested, please leave your name and number at 416-746-5772. Your help is also needed in procuring sponsors and/or cash and gifts. Please ask your company or the stores you shop at, to participate with us. Please contact the members of the Golf Committee at the JCA, 416-746-5772.

I must now remind you that I am still your (JCA) representative on the Black Community Police Consultative Committee (BCPCC). We fought to get the hiring process to an equitable degree, especially as it relates to Black men and women. We have accomplished that task, but unfortunately we cannot seem to find

Continued

With Flair and Pizzazz, the unstoppable members of the Caribbean Seniors Club strutted their stuff in celebration of Black History Month. There was a large turnout despite the event being right in the middle of a weekday. Those who attended will not quickly forget these "sprightly" seniors, the food and the entertainment. The displays from distant years in Jamaica were a real treat and seeing the "ABC Royal Reader" and the "Student's Companion" again, brought back some real tear-jerking memories. After all, so many of us got our start from these

Books. Thanks to all who participated, planned and in general created the ambiance and beauty of the day. It was refreshing indeed. Videos of this event are available for

Display of Jamaican Memorabilia



JCA Seniors Singing and Dancing



Some of Those Who Attended



Join the Caribbean Senior's Club on May 29th, 2001 for Forum on safe medication use with Jack Pinkas from Senior Alliance Group



TID BITS Continued

candidates to fill vacancies. We are now working on promoting policing as an enviable career and so far the committee is pleased with the results.

Recently the Chair of BCPCC again met with Chief Julian Fantino to reiterate our concerns on issues as they relate to policing within our community. We continue to maintain good relations and encourage the community to support the police in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.



SENIORS

CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT.

YOU & YOUR HEALTH

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA (S.C.A.)

Submitted by V. Bennett

Sickle Cell Anemia (S.C.A.) is the abnormal formation of red blood cells. Anemia is a reduced amount of red blood cells (RBC).

Blood is the body's transportation system. Blood carries oxygen and essential nutrients, for example, iron and vitamins, to all parts of the body.

Plasma (a straw colored fluid) carries red blood cells and white blood cells (WBC) throughout the body.

WBCs help the body to fight diseases and infections. RBCs are shaped like a "biconcave disk" (i.e. 2 sides curved inwards) and they contain red colored hemoglobin which carries oxygen from lungs to tissues. When there is reduced production of RBCs, it results in "*anemia*" and therefore, less food and oxygen are transported to all parts of the body.

Sickle Cell Anemia (SCA), is a *chronic* form of anemia. It is an inherited disease occurring most commonly in the *black population* and to a great degree among persons of Spanish ancestry. In human biology, each person inherits one gene from each parent, which governs hemoglobin formation. A person with SCA gets genes carrying the disease from *both* parents. If a person gets a normal gene from one parent and a sickled cell gene from the other parent, this person is considered to have *sickle trait*. This person rarely suffers any ill effects and may also be unaware he/she has the gene trait but is in fact considered a "*carrier*". However, this person may experience difficulty breathing at high altitude where there is less oxygen.

The person with SCA experiences pain due to the closing off of small blood vessels (clotting) by sickled red cells. This painful attack (*crisis*) may last for several days. SCA may cause injury to all parts of the body bones, central nervous system, liver, lungs, spleen, etc. Some may even experience blindness, convulsions (seizures), paralysis or loss of speech. Many die in childhood. Few live beyond 40 years of age. Children rarely show symptoms until late in their first year.

Factors such as dehydration, infection, strenuous physical exertion, extreme fatigue, exposure to cold or low oxygen intake may trigger (precipitate) a *crisis*. Some signs of SCA are a loss of appetite, becoming weak, fever, pain in the joints, back, abdomen, hands and legs, swollen hands, legs, feet, as well as becoming jaundiced and pale.

People with SCA should work closely with their doctor. They should monitor the amount and frequency of liquid intake, such as fruit juices, water, and milk. Various forms of treatment are applied by doctors including blood transfusions. Blood transfusions are usually only given when anemia is severe enough to cause serious illness.

To prevent SCA, people at high risk should get tested for the trait and be aware that if two people with SCA trait should marry, there is a one in four chance their child will get SCA. For more info, visit www.sicklecell.org OR www.sicklecelldisease.org.

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- 1 Barbeque (Gas) with Container - \$95.00 (Reg. \$263)
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I Have A Dream...

I have a dream that no one will ever die from any sickness. I have a dream that grandma's, grandpa's, parents, uncles and aunts will never disappear. That they'll always be there by your side no matter how many mistakes they've made in life.

I have a dream that my parents have a long and peaceful life, for all the early hours they wake up in the morning to get ready for work, prepare lunch not only for me but for my brother....I have a dream that God shall watch over them

I have a dream that my brother and me will always be close. No matter how much, we scream, kick and fight with each other. We will always love and care for each other, even if we become two continents apart.

I have a dream that one day, maybe not tomorrow or next week. But I have a dream that one day school yards across the nation will be bully-free that little kids who can't defend themselves won't be afraid to come out. That all the kids will join hands and be united as one....as a family, as a circle of friends.

I have a dream that one day poverty will no longer exist. That children loose on the streets will have a home and people who care for them. That they'll have a table to sit at and have a proper meal instead

of digging through dumpsters looking for scraps of food.

I have a dream that the world will one day be a peaceful place. That music will be played on every corner street. That people will be friendly and approachable even though they don't know you. That there will come a time when discrimination and crime will be history and long gone.

I have a dream that one day all people of all religions, race, colour, gender, will join together and have a big picnic on a nice crisp summer day. It won't matter if they're black, white, fat, short, skinny, tall, or what religion they are. They will all be treated equally, because God brought us all up....to have respect for one another and not discriminate each other, because God created us and if discrimination does occur your going against God's creations.

I have a dream that people should discharge all their hatred and replace it with alternative splices such as love and care. I truly think our world needs to stop holding grudges against people. If someone hates you and you hate them back, you are making a mistake. A mistake that you will regret.

Written by: Sara Abura
13 year-old student
Woodbine Junior High School
Toronto, Canada 416-395-3110
January 15, 2001

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE

John Brooks Community Foundation & Scholarship Fund

Application forms are now available from John Brooks Foundation at 21 Vaughn Road, Toronto
OR by calling the Foundation at 416-653-2627
OR for pick up at the Jamaican Canadian Association Reception Office
995 Arrow Road or calling JCA at 416-746-5772

All applications must be sent to JBCFS at 21 Vaughn Road, Suite 111,
Toronto, Ontario M6G 2N2
All applications must be received by the closing date July 14, 2001. Late applications are not considered.



JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT.

Report From North York Seniors Health Centre (NYSHC)

Submitted by Daphne Bailey, JCA Member

The official opening of the 4th floor of the North York Seniors Health Centre took place on April 2nd, 2001. The Hon. Tony Clement, Minister of Health, represented the Ontario Government. Reporters from mainstream and local media were present. Also in attendance were representatives from the different communities, staff and clients of the centre.

A tour conducted by Helen Ferley, the Director of the Centre followed the

Volunteers are needed at the  Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) Centre

to establish a Scout Movement. The Scout Movement will provide stimulating indoor and outdoor programs for young people from 5-26 years. Scouts Canada and members of the Canadian Armed Forces will provide the necessary training and guidance in operating the group. For further information, please contact

BARRY MORRISON at the JCA, **416-746-5772**

FOR THE FUN OF IT - SMILE

Living in the '00's

You know you are living in the 00's when:

- You enter your password on the microwave
- You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three
- Your e-mail buddy works at the desk next to you
- When you make phone calls from home, you start by dialing "9"
- You are at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies
- Your resume is on a diskette in your pocket
- You learn about your redundancy on the 11:00 p.m. news
- Your supervisor doesn't have your ability or knows the job
- Salary of a Board Member is higher than the combined annual budgets of all Third World Countries
- Being sick is defined as you can't walk or you're in hospital
 - Your relatives and family describe your job as "works with "computers"
 - You halve a spell chequer on your computer and still make miss steaks

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JAMAICAN CANADIAN
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Websites to check out

Submitted by C. Cameron-Stewart

www.PbFoundation.com
Excellent info on National
Heroes/Jamaica

www.reggaeplus.com
For those who love good music

www.cananews.com
For worldwide news/great sports

www.jcassoc.com
Info on Jamaican Canadian
Association/Events

SEEN and HEARD

Some things are worth repeating. Recently I was surfing the net and found this story. A few days later Share Newspaper had the same feeling I had and printed it. For those of you who missed it on the net and in Share or wherever else it was printed, just read.....

School Shootings and White Denial
Tim Wise, AlterNet

March 6, 2001

I can think of no other way to say this, so here goes: white people we need to pull our heads out of our collective ass. Two more white children are dead and thirteen are injured, and another "nice" community is scratching its blonde head, utterly perplexed at how a school shooting the likes of the one yesterday in Santee, California could happen. After all, as the Mayor of the town said in an interview with CNN: "We're a solid town, a good town, with good kids, a good church-going town...an All-American town." Yeah, well maybe that's the problem. I said this after Columbine and no one listened so I'll say it again: white people live in an utter state of self-delusion.

We think danger is black, brown and poor, and if we can just move far enough away from "those people" in the cities we'll be safe. If we can just find an "all-American" town, life will be better, because "things like this just don't happen here." Well bullshit on that. In case you hadn't noticed, "here" is about the only place these kinds of things do happen. Oh sure, there is plenty of violence in urban communities and schools. But mass murder; wholesale slaughter; take-a-gun-and-see-how-many-you-can-kill kinda craziness seems made for those safe places: the white suburbs or rural communities. And yet once again, we hear the FBI insist

there is no "profile" of a school shooter. Come again? White boy after white boy after white boy, with very few exceptions to that rule (and none in the mass shooting category), decides to use their classmates for target practice, and yet there is no profile? Imagine if all these killers had been black: would we still hesitate to put a racial face on the perpetrators? Doubtful. Indeed, if any black child in America -- especially in the mostly white suburbs of Littleton, or Santee -- were to openly discuss their plans to murder fellow students, as happened both at Columbine and now Santana High, you can bet your ass that somebody would have turned them in, and the cops would have beat a path to their doorstep. But when whites discuss their murderous intentions, our stereotypes of what danger looks like cause us to ignore it -- they're just "talking" and won't really do anything. How many kids have to die before we rethink that nonsense? How many dazed and confused parents, Mayors and Sheriffs do we have to listen to, describing how "normal" and safe their community is, and how they just can't understand what went wrong? I'll tell you what went wrong and it's not TV, rap music, video games or a lack of prayer in school. What went wrong is that white Americans decided to ignore dysfunction and violence when it only affected other communities, and thereby blinded themselves to the inevitable creeping of chaos which never remains isolated too long. What affects the urban "ghetto" today will be coming to a Wall-Mart near you tomorrow, and unless you address the emptiness, pain, isolation and lack of hope felt by children of color and the poor, then don't be shocked when the support systems aren't there for your kids either. What went wrong is that we allowed ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of security by media representations of crime and violence that portray both as the province of those who are anything but white like us. We ignore the warning signs, because in our minds the warning signs don't live in our neighborhood, but across town, in that place where we lock our car doors on the rare occasion we have to drive there. That false sense of security-- the result of racist and classist stereotypes -- then gets people killed. And still we act amazed. But listen up my

fellow white Americans: your children are no better, no nicer, no more moral, no more decent than anyone else. Dysfunction is all around you, whether you choose to recognize it or not. According to the Centers for Disease Control, and Department of Health and Human Services, it is your children, and not those of the urban ghetto, who are most likely to use drugs. That's right: white high school students are seven times more likely than blacks to have used cocaine; eight times more likely to have smoked crack; ten times more likely to have used LSD and seven times more likely to have used heroin. In fact, there are more white high school students who have used crystal methamphetamine (the most addictive drug on the streets) than there are black students who smoke cigarettes. What's more, white youth ages 12-17 are more likely to sell drugs: 34% more likely, in fact than their black counterparts. And it is white youth who are twice as likely to binge drink, and nearly twice as likely as blacks to drive drunk. And white males are twice as likely to bring a weapon to school as are black males. And yet I would bet a valued body part that there aren't 100 white people in Santee, California, or most any other "nice" community have ever heard a single one of the statistics above. Even though they were collected by government agencies using these folks' tax money for the purpose, Because the media doesn't report on white dysfunction. A few years ago, U.S. News ran a story entitled: "A Shocking look at blacks and crime." Yet never have they or any other news outlet discussed the "shocking" whiteness of these shoot-em-ups. Indeed, every time media commentators discuss the similarities in these crimes they mention that the shooters were boys, they were loners,

Continued on Page 14



JCA WALKATHON

Submitted by: Bruce McDonald - On behalf of the Fundraising Committee

Everybody walk'd good!!

This year's Walk-A-Thon started at 10:00 am instead of 9:30 am, to allow those who depend on public transportation to get to the Centre.

In attendance were Mr. A.B. Stewart Stephenson, Consul General for Jamaica, and his wife Dawn, Mrs. Judy Sgro, M.P. for Toronto North-West and Mr. Herman Stewart, President of the Association. Mr. Stewart welcomed the Consul General to his first JCA Walk-A-Thon and thanked Mrs. Sgro for her continued support.

Everyone was in a happy mood mainly because it was a beautiful day and we had Chubby, the Cotts Beverages mascot to cheer us along. Ms Daphne Bailey did a wonderful

job of leading the approximately one participants in warming up exercises before the walk.

Our sincere thanks to all Committee members, other JCA volunteers and friends who helped to make this year's walk a success.

When all the pledges are in, it is projected that we will collect approximately \$15,000.

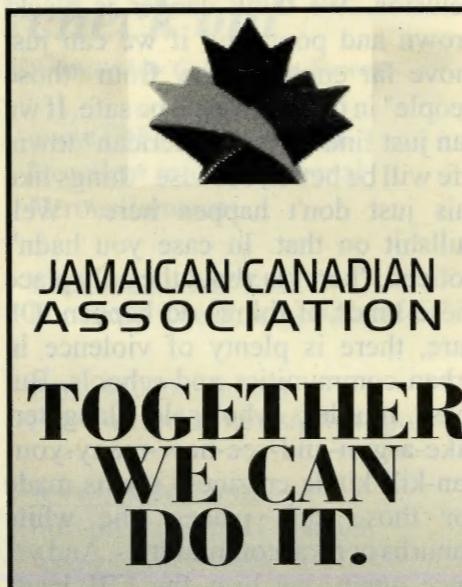
Thanks to the following donors: Toronto Colony Hotel, Black Creek Pioneer Village, Ontario Science Centre, Grace Kennedy, Cotts Beverages, CN Tower and Prism Brandz.

We look forward to seeing you all next year.

SEEN and HEARD Continued

they got picked on, but never do they seem to notice a certain highly visible melanin deficiency. Color-blind, I guess. White-blind is more like it, as I figure these folks would spot color mighty damn quick were some of it to stroll into their community. Santee's whiteness is so taken for granted by its residents that the Mayor, in that CNN interview, thought nothing of saying on the one hand that the town was 82 percent white, but on the other hand that "this is America." Well that isn't America, and it especially isn't California, where whites are only half of the population. This is a town that is removed from America, and yet its Mayor thinks they are the normal ones -- so much so that when asked about racial diversity, he replied that there weren't many of different "ethni-tisities." Not a word. Not even close. I'd like to think that after this one, people would wake up. Take note. Rethink their stereotypes of who the dangerous ones are. But deep down, I know better. The folks hitting the snooze button on this none-too-subtle alarm are my own people, after all, and I know their blindness like the back of my hand.

Talk to Tim at tjwise@mindspring.com



QUARTERLY MEETING

Friday,
MAY 25, 2001 - 6:00 P.M.

Saturday,
MAY 26, 2001 - 9:00 A.M.

Jamaican Canadian Centre
995 Arrow Road

For further information call
JCA at (416) 746-5772

JCA's web page/address - Web Site: www.jcassoc.com • E-mail: info@jcassoc.com

We would like to keep in touch with you.

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GOLF CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

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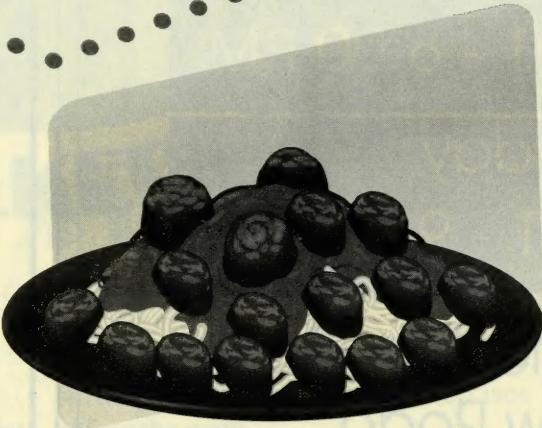
"19th Hole Reception"
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Contact JCA Office
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COOK'S CORNER

**1 Medium Package Lean
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Chicken or Beef or Turkey
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1 Clove Garlic
Pepper to taste
2 Cups Tomato Catsup
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1 Cup Water
1 Piece Ginger to Taste
(Pounded)
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**Very Simple,
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Submitted by Fay Conville**



Method:

Add seasonings to ground meat, combine in the usual manner adding the flour. Form seasoned ground meat into very small meat balls. **DO NOT BROWN** In a heavy pot, add all the liquids along with pounded ginger. Bring to a boil. Add meat balls to boiling liquid. Bring to a full boil and turn heat to low. Keep covered and **simmer** for several hours (approx 4 hours). Serve with freshly cooked rice. (*P.S. more delicious next day*) Enjoy!

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Youth Affairs & Culture Fashion Show/Dance	JCA Centre	Fri., May 25/01	From 8:00 p.m.
Annual General Meeting	JCA Centre	Fri., May 25/01	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
	JCA Centre	Sat., May 26/01	9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Volunteer Appreciation Evening	JCA Centre	Fri., June 08/01	6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Annual Outing/Picnic	McFarlane Park, Niagara-On-The-Lake	Sun, July 08/01	Tickets Costs Adults \$25/Kids\$10
Flagraising Ceremony	Toronto City Hall	Sun. August 05/01	At 2:00 p.m.
Jamaican Independence Church Service	Place to Be Determined	Sun. August 05/01	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
Jamaica Independence Dinner/Dance	JCA Centre	Sat., August 11/01	From 6:30 p.m.
JCA's "YES-WE-CAN" Golf Tournament	Cardinal Golf Club	Sat. August 18/01	From 1:00 p.m.
Golf Tournament Reception/Trophy Presentation	JCA Centre	Sat., August 18/01	From 6:00 p.m.

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